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LARVACARUS, A NEW GENUS OF FALSE SPIDER MITES

(ACARINA, PHYTOPTIPALPIDAE)

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Two species of false spider mites are remarkable in that the adults retain nearly all the characters of the larval stage. One species, *Phytoptipalpus paradoxus* Trägårdh (1905) forms cortical galls on the gum arabic tree (*Acacia nilotica* Willd.) in Egypt. The other species, *P. transitans* Ewing (1922), forms galls on the jujube tree (*Zizyphus jujuba* Lam.) in India.

P. paradoxus, the type of the genus *Phytoptipalpus*, was re-described and illustrated by Sayed (1942). A new genus is here proposed for *transitans*, and this species is illustrated for the first time and re-described.

Larvacarus, new genus

Type.—*Phytoptipalpus transitans* Ewing.

Adults.—Body subelliptical, the integument finely striate. Palpus one segmented, proximally fused to rostrum. Legs six in number; coxa III without seta. Rostral shield absent. Propodosoma with 3 pairs of dorsal setae; hysterosoma with 3 pairs of setae mediodorsally, six setae on each lateral margin, and one seta between the first dorsocentral and first lateral. Podosoma with 1 pair of medioventral setae. Female opisthosoma with 1 pair of medioventral setae, the ventral plate absent; 2 pairs of genital setae, the genital plate absent; 2 pairs of anal setae, the anal plates absent. Male opisthosoma with 1 pair of medioventral setae and 3 pairs of genito-anal setae.

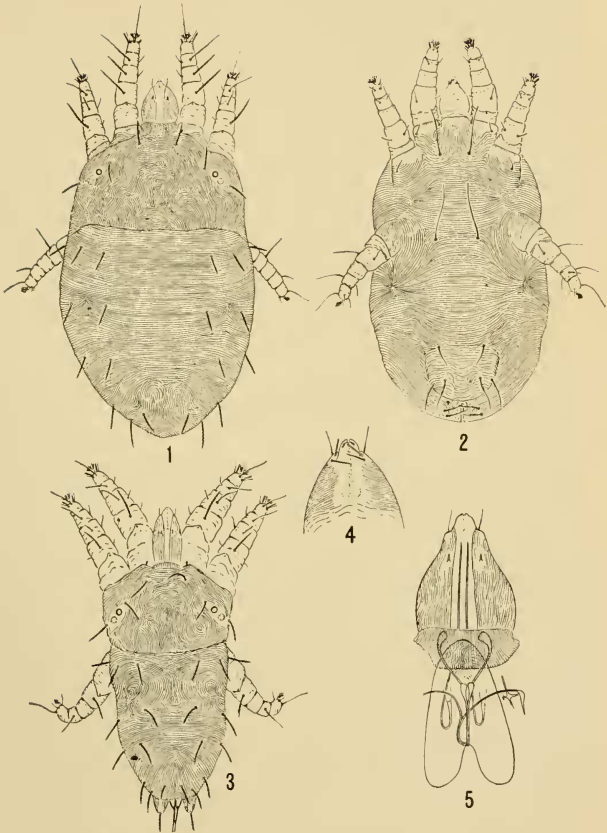
Nymph.—Similar to female except with only 1 pair of genital setae and vulva absent.

Larva.—Similar to female except genua of legs I and II without dorsal setae, and opisthosoma with medioventral and genital setae absent.

In addition to differing from Sayed's drawings (1942) of *Phytoptipalpus* by the strongly reduced number of palpal segments, *Larvacarus* further differs by having only 1 pair of setae between the dorsolaterals and laterals on the hysterosoma, by having only a single pair of medioventrals on the podosoma, and by lacking a seta on coxa III.

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Larvacarus transitans, cotypes. Fig. 1, female, dorsal aspect; fig. 2, female, ventral aspect; fig. 3, male, dorsal aspect; fig. 4, enlargement of venter of female rostrum; fig. 5, enlargement of dorsum of rostrum and tracheal system of female.

Larvacarus transitans (Ewing), new combination

Figs. 1-5

Phytoptipalpus transitans Ewing, 1922, Proc. Ent. Wash., 24: 108; Sayed, 1942, Bul. Soc. Fouad 1^{er} Ent., 26:115. Cotypes: females and males, Pusa, India, in galls on *Zizyphus jujuba*; in the U. S. National Museum.

Female.—Legs I and II with dorsal setae of femora, genua, and tibiae all slender, tapering, serrate; tarsus I and II each with a slender sensory peg posterodistally, and a short sensory peg anterodistally; claw without hook, with two rows of tenent hairs; empodium similar to claws. Propodosoma with dorsal setae slender, serrate, of similar length, the anterior pair being two-thirds as long as intervals between them; dorsal striae fine, irregular. Hysterosoma with dorsal setae similar to dorsal propodosomals; dorsal striae transverse except for irregularities in caudal area. Medioventral podosomal smooth, slender, somewhat longer than distance between them; medioventral opisthosomals short, slender, serrate; genital setae long and slender, smooth or slightly serrate; anal setae shorter than genital setae and serrate. Length of body, 350 μ ; greatest width, 189 μ .

Male.—Tarsus I and II each with two slender sensory rods distally. Dorsal setae similar to female. Opisthosoma with medioventral and genito-anal setae slender, finely serrate. Length of body, 280 μ ; greatest width, 116 μ .

Nymph.—Similar to female except for missing pair of genital setae.

Larva.—Similar to female except dorsal setae of body proportionally longer and integumentary striae of body coarser.

Redescribed on a basis of cotype material, Pusa, India (O. S. Misra), in galls on *Zizyphus jujuba*. One female differs from the others in that the genital setae are short and serrate, similar to the medioventral opisthosomals.

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